

DSHS
Division of Developmental Disabilities
Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payments (SSP)

Project Update # 5
July 22, 2002

What is the status of the State Supplementary Plan (SSP) plan with Federal Government:

The Social Security Administration (SSA) has approved the state's plan for administering SSP. The State has agreed to limit SSP payments to persons who receive a Supplemental Security Income (SSI) federal payment.

When will SSP start

The division plans to implement SSP payments starting September 1, 2002. Services will be authorized in the usual way in July and August. An ongoing issue is how to ensure effective and accurate authorization of services to high school graduates through County contracted programs. The division plans to work in close partnership with counties around this concern to ensure that people continue to receive services.

Who will be eligible for Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)-administered SSP:

As of July 22, 2002, the eligibility criteria for the new DDD/SSP program is as follows:

ALL DDD/SSP recipients must

1. Be clients of DDD, AND
2. Receive a Supplemental Security Income (SSI) federal payment, AND
3. Have received a state-only funded DDD service (Residential, Voluntary Placement, Family Support or High School Transition (employment or other day program) in the prior year and still be in need of this service.

Will new clients or unserved clients get SSP?

Some new or unserved clients who are recipients of SSI payments will be eligible for SSP including:

1. Some clients currently unserved, but meeting the eligibility criteria in #1 and #2 above and born between 9/1/80 and 8/31/81 and who are not on the CAP waiver,
2. The division is still determining if other persons will be eligible for SSP.

Who will not be eligible for DDD/SSP?

Eligibility for SSP will be tightly limited as specified in the above eligibility section.

1. DDD clients who are on the CAP waiver will not be eligible to receive DDD-administered SSP unless their current service is funded by state-only dollars. Under those circumstances waiver participants may receive SSP depending on the other eligibility factors. Clients currently receiving a waiver service will continue to receive the service.

2. Clients whose services depend on matching federal funding, such as persons residing in institutions, intensive tenant support, employment; will not be eligible for SSP for those services.
3. Most current clients of county-administered employment, other day or child development services will not be eligible to receive SSP. Some high school transition clients currently receiving employment or other day program services will be eligible for SSP.

How much money will be administered by DDD for SSP?

Due to the change in eligibility criteria requiring SSP recipients to be receiving an SSI payment, the portion of SSP that DDD will administer has been reduced. Final figures are not yet available. A portion of it will come from the conversion of existing state-funded services into State Supplementary Payments, and a portion will come from new funding allocated by the legislature to DDD for the purpose of administering a new SSP program.

How much money will be available to eligible people from DDD/SSP?

The amount of money available in each client's SSP will vary according to the service or support need of the individual. The exact amount will be determined by DDD, but it will be based on the person's prior year's expenditures for the state service needed by the SSP recipient.

For persons receiving Residential, Voluntary Placement, or High School Transition Programs, SSP payments will be based on the amount of state dollars paid for the service(s) in the prior year, as adjusted for rate increases or decreases in the current year. A client will be required to demonstrate his or her continued purchase of needed residential, voluntary placement or transition employment or day program services in order to continue to receive SSP.

For Family Support the average SSP payment ***will be based on the total amount of state dollars paid for services in the prior year***. As the individual's SSP is expected to be relatively small, clients will be able to self-direct the use of their SSP.

When will the WAC's for DDD/SSP be available?

DDD will be filing Emergency WAC's effective July 1, 2002 for the administration of the new DDD/SSP program. The emergency WAC's will be in place for 120 days, while the permanent WAC process is underway. There will be opportunity for public input on the permanent WAC's governing the DDD/SSP program.